

Application No. : 10/760,588
Art Unit : 3617

Attorney Docket No. 22498.01
Confirmation No. 1118

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (*Currently Amended*) An amphibious vehicle, comprising:

a hull having opposing first and second sides, a bow, and a stern;

a plurality of hinges disposed along each of said first and second sides;

first and second track drive assemblies, each of said track drive assemblies having longitudinal inboard and outboard top edges, the track drive assemblies being attached to the first and second sides of said hull by said hinges, wherein each of the track drive assemblies is rotatable through an arc of rotation about a longitudinal axis generally parallel to said longitudinal inboard top edge between a downward position and an upright position;

a support frame disposed on said hull and extending above said hull;

and

first and second lift mechanisms disposed between said ~~hull~~ support frame and said first and second track drive assemblies, respectively.

Claim 2 (*Cancelled*)

Claim 3 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of hinges comprises a plurality of offset hinges, each of the track drive assemblies being rotatable about a longitudinal axis generally parallel to said longitudinal inboard top edge and between said longitudinal inboard top edge and said longitudinal outboard top edge.

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Claim 4 (*Cancelled*)

Claim 5 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 1, wherein each of said lift mechanisms comprises a lifting member having a first end and a second end, the first end being supported above said hull and the second end being connected to said track drive assembly.

Claim 6 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 5, wherein said lifting member is a hydraulic ram.

Claim 7 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 5, wherein each of said lift mechanisms further comprises a pulling member having a first end and a second end, the first end being supported above said hull and below said first end of said lifting member, and the second end being connected to said lifting member.

Claim 8 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 7, wherein said pulling member is a hydraulic ram.

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Claim [[8]] 9 (*Currently Amended*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 1, wherein each of said track drive assemblies further comprises:

a frame having an inboard and an outboard support member, each of the support members having an inner surface and an outer surface, the frame having a first end and a second end;

a hydraulically driven drum supported between the inboard and outboard support members at said first end of said frame;

an idler supported by the second end of said frame;

a plurality of road wheels supported by said frame, the road wheels being disposed in line between the hydraulically driven drum and the idler; and

an endless belt track member entrained about said hydraulically driven drum, said idler, and said wheels.

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Claim 10 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 9, wherein each said hydraulically driven drum comprises:

a motor support disposed on the inner surface of said inboard support member;

a hydraulic motor supported by said motor support, the hydraulic motor having a motor shaft;

a bearing disposed on the inner surface of said outboard support member;

a cylindrical drum; and

a hub attached to said cylindrical drum, the hub having a hub shaft rotatably supported by said bearing, the motor shaft engaging said hub;

whereby said cylindrical drum rotates when the motor shaft rotates.

Claim 11 (*Original*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 9, further comprising:

a marine outdrive disposed on said stern of said hull;

an internal combustion engine disposed within said hull, the internal combustion engine being coupled to said marine outdrive; and

a plurality of hydraulic pumps, the hydraulic pumps being coupled to said internal combustion engine, at least one of the hydraulic pumps being in communication with said hydraulic motors, and at least one of said hydraulic pumps being in communication with said first and second lift mechanisms.

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Claim 12 (*Currently Amended*) A drive track assembly, comprising:

a frame having an inboard and an outboard support member, each of the support members having an inner surface and an outer surface, the frame having a first end and a second end;

a hydraulically driven drum supported between the inboard and outboard support members at said first end of said frame, the hydraulically driven drum comprising a motor support disposed on the inner surface of said inboard support member, a hydraulic motor supported by said motor support, the hydraulic motor having a motor shaft, a bearing disposed on the inner surface of said outboard support member, a cylindrical drum, and a hub attached to said cylindrical drum, the hub having a hub shaft rotatably supported by said bearing, the motor shaft engaging said hub;

an idler supported by the second end of said frame;

a plurality of road wheels supported by said frame, the road wheels being disposed in line between the hydraulically driven drum and the idler; and

an endless belt track member entrained about said hydraulically driven drum, said idler, and said wheels.

Claim 13 (*Cancelled*)

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Claim 14 (*New*) An amphibious vehicle, comprising:

a hull having opposing first and second sides, a bow, and a stern;

a plurality of hinges disposed along each of said first and second sides;

first and second track drive assemblies, each of said track drive assemblies having longitudinal inboard and outboard top edges, the track drive assemblies being attached to the first and second sides of said hull by said hinges, wherein each of the track drive assemblies is rotatable through an arc of rotation about a longitudinal axis generally parallel to said longitudinal inboard top edge between a downward position and an upright position; and

first and second lift mechanisms disposed between said hull and said first and second track drive assemblies, respectively;

wherein each of said track drive assemblies comprises a frame having an inboard and an outboard support member, each of the support members having an inner surface and an outer surface, the frame having a first end and a second end; a hydraulically driven drum supported between the inboard and outboard support members at said first end of said frame; an idler supported by the second end of said frame; a plurality of road wheels supported by said frame, the road wheels being disposed in line between the hydraulically driven drum and the idler; and an endless belt track member entrained about said hydraulically driven drum, said idler, and said wheels.

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Claim 15 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of hinges comprises a plurality of offset hinges, each of the track drive assemblies being rotatable about a longitudinal axis generally parallel to said longitudinal inboard top edge and between said longitudinal inboard top edge and said longitudinal outboard top edge.

Claim 16 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 14, further comprising a support frame disposed on said hull and extending above said hull, said first and second lift mechanisms being disposed between said support frame and said first and second track drive assemblies, respectively.

Claim 17 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 14, wherein each of said lift mechanisms comprises a lifting member having a first end and a second end, the first end being supported above said hull and the second end being connected to said track drive assembly.

Claim 18 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 17, wherein said lifting member is a hydraulic ram.

Claim 19 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 17, wherein each of said lift mechanisms further comprises a pulling member having a first end and a second end, the first end being supported above said hull and below said first end of said lifting member, and the second end being connected to said lifting member.

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Claim 20 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 19, wherein said pulling member is a hydraulic ram.

Claim 21 (*New*) The amphibious vehicle according to claim 14, further comprising:

a marine outdrive disposed on said stern of said hull;

an internal combustion engine disposed within said hull, the internal combustion engine being coupled to said marine outdrive; and

a plurality of hydraulic pumps, the hydraulic pumps being coupled to said internal combustion engine, at least one of the hydraulic pumps being in communication with said hydraulic motors, and at least one of said hydraulic pumps being in communication with said first and second lift mechanisms.